



# GREENPEACE



**Emma Hardy MP**  
**Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State**

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**  
**2 Marsham Street**  
**London SW1P 4DF**

**CC: Steve Reed MP, Daniel Zeichner MP**

**8th January 2025**

Dear Minister Hardy,

We write to you as leaders of NGOs, urging you to keep to your commitment of not allowing another emergency derogation of thiamethoxam on sugar beet crops.

**Just one teaspoon of this pesticide can kill 1.25 billion bees.**

Bees are essential for our survival. They pollinate much of what we eat and play a critical role in sustaining ecosystems around the world. But the last decade has been devastating for insect populations, and bees have been hit hard - with a third of wild bee populations shrinking in the UK.

There is no doubt that the use of harmful pesticides has contributed to their decline. As you will be aware, bee-killing neonicotinoids have been banned across Europe since 2018, but the previous UK government approved the 'emergency' authorisation of these deadly chemicals for four years in a row - posing a lethal threat to bee populations. These approvals were done against the scientific advice of the government's own Expert Committee on Pesticides. Since their first advice, the case against the use of neonicotinoids has only strengthened.

We were all pleased when, in opposition, the Labour Party committed to end this cycle of 'emergency' authorisations. There is widespread public support for this policy, as demonstrated by **Greenpeace's petition gathering over 1.6 million signatures**. Greenpeace would like to be able to say to those 1.6 million people that the government has sided with their concerns. I'm sure they'll be disappointed if the government does not.

By not allowing another emergency use of neonicotinoids, there will be more incentive for British Sugar and the government to fund research into alternatives, and to adopt nature-friendly farming approaches including Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

The British public and our supporters stand firmly behind you in your commitment to end this cycle of emergency authorisations. We urge you to keep to your election promise and not authorise the use of neonics on sugar beet crops, for the sake of our environment and our precious pollinators.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

**Will McCallum**, Co-Director, Greenpeace UK  
**Beccy Speight**, CEO, RSPB  
**Dr Keith Tyrell**, Director, Pesticide Action Network UK  
**Jamie Wallace**, CEO, Friends of the Earth  
**Jessica Sinclair Taylor**, Deputy Director, Feedback  
**Owen Finnie**, Co-Director, Pollenize CIC  
**Tim Coleshaw**, Chair, British Dragonfly Society  
**Richard Benwell**, CEO, Wildlife & Countryside Link

**Kath Dalmeny**, Chief Executive, Sustain  
**Campaigns Team**, Landworkers' Alliance  
**Suzy Russell**, Coordinator, The Community Supported Agriculture Network UK  
**Joan Edwards**, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, The Wildlife Trusts  
**Craig Macadam**, Conservation Director, Buglife  
**Anabel Kindersley**, Founder, Stand By Bees  
**Helen Browning**, CEO, The Soil Association

